

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 5, 8, 11, 14 and 17 as follows:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image processor comprising:
  - a first decision controller which decides whether each input color component gradation value of a target pixel ~~exist~~ exists in first ranges;
  - a second decision controller which decides whether differences between each color component gradation value of the target pixel and those of pixels adjacent thereto exist in second ranges different from the first ranges; and
  - a color decision controller which decides that the target pixel has a specified color when the first decision controller decides that ~~[[the]]~~ each color component gradation value of the target pixel ~~exist~~ exists in the first ranges and the second decision controller decides that the differences exist in the second ranges.
2. (Previously Presented) The image processor according to claim 1, wherein said second decision controller determines a maximum value among differences of color gradation value between the target pixel and the adjacent pixels thereof and decides whether the maximum value exists in the second ranges.
3. (Previously Presented) The image processor according to claim 1, further comprising an edge detector which calculates differences in the color gradation

value between the target pixel and a plurality of adjacent pixels thereof in a direction and decides a position of an edge based on the differences.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of image processing comprising the steps of:

inputting color component gradation values for an image;

deciding whether each input color component gradation value of a target pixel ~~exist~~ exists in first ranges;

deciding whether differences between each color component gradation value of the target pixel and those of pixels adjacent thereto exist in second ranges different from the first ranges; and

deciding that the target pixel has a specified color when ~~[[the]]~~ each color component gradation value of the target pixel is decided to exist in the first ranges and the differences are decided to exist in the second ranges.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein a maximum value among differences of color gradation value between the target pixel and the adjacent pixels thereof are obtained and it is decided whether the maximum value exists in the second ranges.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program comprising the steps of:

deciding whether each input color component gradation value of a target pixel ~~exist~~ exists in first ranges;

deciding whether differences between each color component gradation value of the target pixel and those of pixels adjacent thereto exist in second ranges different from the first ranges; and

deciding that the target pixel has a specified color when ~~[[the]]~~ each color component gradation value of the target pixel is decided to exist in the first ranges and the differences are decided to exist in the second ranges.

9. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 8, wherein a maximum value among differences of color gradation value between the target pixel and the adjacent pixels thereof are obtained and it is decided whether the maximum value exists in the second ranges.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An image processor comprising:

a first decision controller which decides whether each input color component gradation value of a target pixel ~~exist~~ exists in first ranges;

a second decision controller which performs a linear calculation ~~on the input color gradation value of the target pixel~~ between each color component gradation

value of the target pixel and decides whether results of the calculation exist in second ranges different from the first ranges; and

a color decision controller which decides that the target pixel has a specified color when the first decision controller decides that ~~[[the]]~~ each color component gradation value of the target pixel ~~exist~~ exists in the first ranges and the second decision controller decides that the results exist in the second ranges.

12. (Previously Presented) The image processor according to claim 11, wherein said second decision controller calculates differences between the color component gradation value of the target pixel and decides whether the differences exist in the second ranges.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of image processing comprising the steps of:

inputting color component gradation values for an image;

deciding whether each input color component gradation value of a target pixel ~~exist~~ exists in first ranges;

performing a linear calculation ~~on the input color gradation value of the target pixel~~ between each color component gradation value of the target pixel and decides whether results of the calculation exist in second ranges different from the first ranges; and

deciding that the target pixel has a specified color when ~~[[the]]~~ each color component gradation value of the target pixel ~~[[are]]~~ is decided to exist in the first ranges and the results are decided to exist in the second ranges.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the differences between the color component gradation value of the target pixel are obtained in the calculation on the input color gradation value and it is decided whether the differences exist in the second ranges.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program comprising the steps of:

deciding whether each input color component gradation value of a target pixel ~~exist~~ exists in first ranges;

performing a linear calculation ~~on the input color gradation value of the target pixel~~ between each color component gradation value of the target pixel and ~~decides~~ deciding whether results of the calculation exist in second ranges different from the first ranges; and

deciding that the target pixel has a specified color when ~~[[the]]~~ each color component gradation value of the target pixel ~~[[are]]~~ is decided to exist in the first ranges and the results are decided to exist in the second ranges.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the color gradation value includes a plurality of color component gradation value, differences between the color component gradation value of the target pixel are obtained in the calculation on the input color gradation value and it is decided whether the differences exist in the second ranges.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The image processor according to claim 1, further comprising:

an extraction controller which extracts an element having a predetermined shape based on the decision by said color decision controller; and

a pattern detector which detects a specified pattern in an image discriminating whether the elements extracted by said extraction controller have a predetermined relationship between them.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

extracting an element having a predetermined shape based on the decision that the target pixel has a specified color; and

detecting a specified pattern in an image by discriminating whether the extracted elements have a predetermined relationship between them.

22. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 8, the program further comprising the steps of:

extracting an element having a predetermined shape based on the decision that the target pixel has a specified color; and

detecting a specified pattern in an image by discriminating whether the extracted elements have a predetermined relationship between them.

23. (Previously Presented) The image processing according to claim 11, further comprising:

an extraction controller which extracts an element having a predetermined shape based on the decision by said color decision controller; and

a pattern detector which detects a specified pattern in an image discriminating whether the elements extracted by said extraction controller have a predetermined relationship between them.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

extracting an element having a predetermined shape based on the decision that the target pixel has a specified color; and

detecting a specified pattern in an image by discriminating whether the extracted elements have a predetermined relationship between them.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, the program further comprising the steps of:

extracting an element having a predetermined shape based on the decision that the target pixel has a specified color; and

detecting a specified pattern in an image by discriminating whether the extracted elements have a predetermined relationship between them.